

Fondation ARC Call For Proposals 2026

Recruiting international leaders in oncology

Submission site: <https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

Contact: leaders@fondation-arc.org

Deadline for submission: **27th August 2026 before 3pm**

1. Context and Objectives

In order to boost France's global competitiveness in cancer research, it is crucial to strengthen local expertise by attracting top researchers and supporting them in setting up teams in France. All key players—donors, research labs, and funding bodies—must work together to expand and energize cancer research efforts.

For many years now, Fondation ARC as part of its scientific strategy has successfully contributed to improving the attractiveness of France's research structures by attracting internationally renowned researchers to establish in France (see dedicated webpage: [Leader](#)).

Fondation ARC is France's leading foundation entirely dedicated to cancer research in all areas of cancerology research (prevention, screening, diagnosis, etiology, treatment, post-cancer, etc.), from basic to clinical research, as well as in epidemiology and economic and social & human sciences.

The aim of this CFP is to allow a high-level researcher to move to France in 2027 and develop an ambitious and innovative research programme within a French research structure in the best possible conditions.

A collaborative effort between the Fondation and host institutions is expected in order to support the newly created research group: the host structure must commit to contribute in terms of direct funding, laboratory space, access to core facilities, additional personnel and a well-defined recruitment strategy.

2. Criteria of the call

Criteria for the Candidate

APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW.

- **The candidate must hold a Doctoral thesis (PhD) for more than 10 years** at the expected date of the decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC (dec 2026).

- **The candidate chosen by the research structure must move from position research abroad.** The candidate could be in transition between the laboratory abroad and the hosting laboratory during the year of the call (2026).
- **The candidates must move to France during the year 2027.**

THESE OTHER CRITERIA WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING REVIEW:

- The candidates must have an established status within the scientific community, with respect to their research activity, the quality of their publications, their recognition in their field, and their management of a research team (in particular: last authorship publication, experience in managing an independent project and research group).
- The candidates should have well-defined career objectives including the long-term integration in the French research system.
- The candidates are expected to make all needed investments to guarantee the success of the project.

Criteria for the research structure

APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW.

- **The project must be hosted by an academic French research structure located in France:** University, EPST (public body for scientific purposes), or EPIC (public body for industrial or commercial purposes), or a non-profit organisation (association, foundation, etc.) or a public health institution.
- **Research structures may only present one candidate.**
- **Research structures must support the project and team with means in line with the project needs.** This includes for example: immediately operational workspace, human resources, running costs, small equipment's, access to shared services and technological platforms (technical assistance, usage time, etc.).

THESE OTHER CRITERIA WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING REVIEW:

- The research structure must have a rigorous and selective recruitment process and a solid strategy to support the candidate as part of a long-term integration.

Criteria for the project

APPLICATIONS THAT DO NOT MEET THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED FOR REVIEW.

- **Applications must be filled in English except the lay summary which must be written in French. They must be completed and submitted on time**

THESE OTHER CRITERIA WILL BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION DURING REVIEW:

- Applications must fall within the framework of research projects in oncology, in respect of the scientific strategy of the Fondation ARC.
- All the research activities carried out with the support of Fondation ARC funding shall be in compliance with fundamental ethical and research integrity principles.
- The application must clearly highlight the following items:
 - The scientific excellence and expertise of the research structure

- The procedure implemented to select the future team leader
- The position of the new team within the research structure and its added value
- The candidate's scientific quality and leadership skills
- The scientific quality of the research project
- The strategy for integration of the applicant in the French research system
- The alignment between the project and the related funding plan
- The contribution of the research structure (material, human, financial resources, etc.), as well as the other funding sources envisaged.

3. Project selection

procedure

Applications meeting the eligibility requirements will be evaluated respecting the ethics charter and the conflict-of-interest prevention and management procedure set out by the Fondation ARC.

Applications will be appraised by an international *ad hoc* committee in a pre-selection phase. The applicants for the pre-selected projects will be interviewed (in face to face or remotely) together with the heads of the research structures by the international *ad hoc* committee. Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC, based on the *ad hoc* committee's opinion, will put the selected project up for vote by the Board of Directors.

Evaluation criteria

In parallel to evaluating scientific excellence of the project and applicant, the jury will also challenge the solidity of the host institute commitment in terms of welcoming package and integration strategy.

- Relevance to the CFP on strengthening the research potential in the field of oncology within France.
- Research structure degree of excellence and scientific expertise
- Candidate's scientific quality (career path, publications, international network, collaborations...) and leadership skills.
- Scientific quality of the research project:
 - project's ambition, innovativeness, relevance to current research on cancer; relevance of the scientific expected outcomes.
 - Project's feasibility: project's alignment with the material, technical and human environment provided by the research structure and funding plan.
 - Quality of the project construction: work plan and management.
- Quality of the relationship between candidate and the Research structure:
 - appropriateness of skills brought together to carry out the project.
 - Solidity of the integration strategy.
 - Strengthening of the research structure, added value of the new team and complementary fit with the teams in place.

4. General funding terms

- Funding provided by the Fondation ARC is up to 1.5 million €/5 years.
- The funding period shall start on January 1st, 2027, at the earliest and December 31st, 2027, at the latest.
- Note that Fondation ARC funding will not cover indirect costs (overheads) of the fund management body.

- **Eligible expenses:**

- **All or part of the project leader's salary**, according to the current grid in the structure and, where applicable, additional net pay (not to exceed 1,200 euros/month).

Upon recruitment on a permanent contract during the funding, the additional net pay may be maintained. The part initially dedicated to the project leader's salary may be used to increase the impact of the project upon validation by the Fondation ARC.

- **Recruitment of additional staff** such as post-doctoral scientists, engineers, technicians or master students (but excluding PhD students), on fixed-term contracts managed by the host organisation.

The recruited persons must have a contract of at least 12 months. The names and CVs of post-doctoral researchers must be transferred to the Fondation ARC by the start of the work contract.

- **Material resources:** running costs and equipment (when the equipment unit costs exceed €200K, substantiation will be requested: estimate, possible joint-financing plan, scientific justification).
- **Travel expenses** (maximum 4% of the total request).

5. Evaluation of funded projects

The projects funded by the Fondation ARC are subject to scientific and financial monitoring for as long as they are active which includes:

Commitment by the laureates to present their research results upon the request of the Fondation ARC boards; Writing scientific reports to be sent to Fondation ARC annually; Participation of the project leader and/or members of their team in scientific events organised by Fondation ARC.

6. Application

Timeline

Launch of the call: **4th February 2026**

Return of complete applications: **August 27th, 2026**

Pre-selected candidates and structure heads auditions by the *ad hoc* committee: **Autumn 2026**

Selection by the Scientific Board of the Fondation ARC: **November 2026**

Decision by the Board of Directors of the Fondation ARC: **December 2026**

Submission procedure

Duly-completed application must be submitted through the dedicated site

<https://appelsaprojets.fondation-arc.org>

by August 27th, 2026 (before 3pm)

Automatically errors checking in the online application is done at the final submission of the file. Application will be appraised only if the candidate does final submission. At final submission, candidate received a receipt by email. Candidate can modify their submitted application as many times as needed until the deadline of the call for projects. Candidate must ensure after modification to re-submit their application (a new receipt is sent by email)